

## U. S. NAVY FORCES U-BOATS TO HIDE IN SEA BY RAKING THEM WITH DEPTH CHARGES

## High Explosive Bombs Believed to Have Sunk Many Submarines

**SHIP LOSS CUT DOWN**  
**New System of Convoying**  
**Merchantmen in Groups**

**Is Great Success.**  
**BENSON TELLS OF WORK**  
**American Craft Now Have De-**  
**vice to Detect Presence of**

## Underwater Boat.

*Special Despatch to The Sun.*  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—The American campaign against the German submarines is developing such a high degree of efficiency, in conjunction with the Allies' system of hunting the surface of the seas with airplanes, that the U-boat no longer dares to operate freely against merchant craft, as they had done until recently, and are now almost limited to the high seas for their operations.

In the first authoritative account of what is being done by American navy

forces in European waters Admiral Benson brought out informally some highly important information contained in latest advice.

Admiral Sims's American war craft have, it is believed, sunk a number of German submarines, significantly contrived depth charges and have possibly riddled others with high explosive shells.

A new system of convoying merchantmen in groups from American ports has proved so successful that losses from submarine attack to date are less than one-half of 1 per cent.

**New U-Boat Detectors.**

New means of detecting the presence of the U-boats have been tried and found very successful.

The number of American destroyers and other anti-submarine craft has now increased to such an extent that it is becoming more and more difficult for the U-boats to operate and the number of

The new system of convoy has proved to be a revelation in its results even to the British Admiralty and the American navy. The plan implies an advance arrangement whereby vessels leave American ports in the same order as they are to be met by fast cruisers, destroyers or other American naval craft, which accompany them to the other side.

Under the new system, the American naval craft are met by British vessels, thereby doubling or increasing their patrol. U-boats, not daring to cope with the increased force, are forced to remain always forced to keep their noses under water and seek safety rather than attempt attack.

**U-Boats Play Possum.**

Admiral Benson, who is always sure of his facts, does not make the mistake of assuming that the U-boats have sunk any of the German U-boats. But he says there is good reason to be sure that a large number of them are dead.

The U-boat commander, he explains, is not at all various tricks to create the belief that the submarines have been destroyed by the use of depth charges and debris to the water's surface. It is ex-

truly difficult, he points out, to be absolutely sure whether or not a U-boat has been sunk.

In several cases, however, depth charges have been exploded under the bubbles of the U-boat and there has been evidence that the high explosive charge found its mark. In another instance a U-boat was seen to plunge forward with stern up after meeting with a well aimed shot from one of the destroyer's guns. But even this evidence is not accepted as absolutely con-

The depth bombs used by the American can destroyers are a new type which has been developed for this campaign and the results achieved are regarded by Admiral Sims and his officers as highly satisfactory. When a submarine is sighted by a destroyer and quickly submerged, as they always do, to escape the war craft, the exceedingly fast destroyer races up to the spot, while

the mido easily by the trail of bubbles that rises to the surface, and drops to depth bombs, timed to explode under the supposed level of the U-boat. These bombs carry a heavy charge of high explosive the explosion of one of them anywhere near the submarine will almost certainly sink her.

**Many Believed Sunk.**

How many U-boats have been destroyed in this manner cannot be determined accurately, just because the main drop to the bottom, and partly because of the tricks used by the submarine commanders to produce the im-

pression that they have been blown up. Admiral Benson is careful to make no definite statement, but he intimates that he believed a considerable number of the submarines will cause no more trouble.

The usefulness of the submarine underwater is very limited and it is apparently the plan adopted by the American destroyers to keep the submarines from developing their offensive tactics develop to the point where the surface of the sea is kept reasonably clear. The German campaign against the United States shipping for tactical purposes, a complete failure. Under such circumstances, the submarines could not exert an appreciable influence on the European campaign. France and the American troops abroad.

**Navy More Effective.**

According to latest reports the effectiveness of the war craft as U-boat hunters appears to be greatly increasing. The belief of the American naval officer that the U-boat campaign will soon now have a more difficult time.

The short days and the long nights